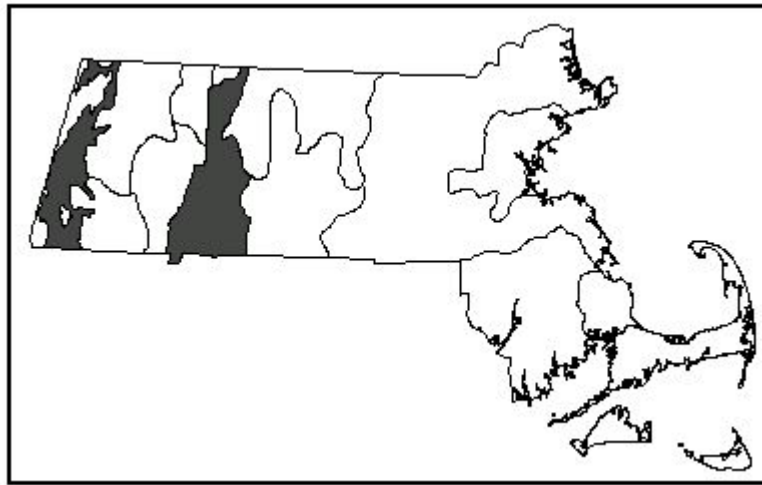


Community Name: TRANSITIONAL FLOODPLAIN FOREST
Community ELCODE: CP1A2B2000
SRANK: S2



Concept: Silver maple-green ash-American elm forests occurring on alluvial soils. Transitional floodplain forests are intermediate in vegetation composition and soils between major- and small-river types.

Environmental setting: Transitional floodplain forests are known to occur on third-order or smaller tributaries of the Connecticut River, on portions of the Housatonic River, and in depressions within major-river floodplain forests of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers. Sites generally experience annual flooding. The severity of flooding, soil texture, and soil drainage of transitional floodplain forests is intermediate between major-river and small-river floodplain forests. Soils are either silt loams or very fine sandy loams, and soil mottling is generally present within 60 cm (2 ft.) of soil surface. A surface organic layer is typically absent.

Vegetation Description: Transitional floodplain forests have a vegetation association intermediate between major-river and small-river floodplain forests. Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is dominant in the canopy, but unlike in major-river forests, cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) is typically absent. Similar to small-river forests, green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and American elm (*Ulmus americana*) are present. A shrub layer is generally lacking; however, saplings of overstory trees are common. Vines are abundant with hog peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*) most common. Wood-nettle (*Laportea canadensis*) is not dominant, but it is present in low amounts, about 5-15% cover. The herbaceous layer is typically an even mixture of wood-nettle, ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*).

Associations: One association was described in Kearsley (1998,1999a): Type III-Transitional floodplain forests (*A. saccharinum*-*Arisaema dracontium* Association).

Habitat values for Associated Fauna: Transitional floodplain forests often contain meander scars or sloughs that can function as vernal pools and provide important amphibian breeding habitat.

Associated rare plants:

ARISAEMA DRACONTIUM	GREEN DRAGON	T
CAREX GRAYI	GRAY'S SEDGE	T
CAREX TYPHINA	CAT-TAIL SEDGE	T
MENISPERMUM CANADENSE	MOONSEED	- WL

Associated rare animals:

AMBYSTOMA JEFFERSONIANUM	JEFFERSON SALAMANDER	SC
AMBYSTOMA LATERALE	BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER	SC
CLEMMYS GUTTATA	SPOTTED TURTLE	SC

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

CLEMMYS INSCULPTA	WOOD TURTLE	SC
GOMPHUS FRATERNUS	MIDLAND CLUBTAIL	E
GOMPHUS VASTUS	COBRA CLUBTAIL	SC
GOMPHUS VENTRICOSUS	SKILLET CLUBTAIL	SC
HEMIDACTYLUM SCUTATUM	FOUR-TOED SALAMANDER	SC
NEUROCORDULIA OBSOLETA	UMBER SHADOWDRAGON	SC
OPHIOGOMPHUS ASPERSUS	BROOK SNAKETAILED	SC
OPHIOGOMPHUS CAROLUS	RIFFLE SNAKETAILED	T
SOMATOCHLORA CINGULATA	LAKE EMERALD	SC
SOMATOCHLORA ELONGATA	SKI-TAILED EMERALD	SC
SOMATOCHLORA GEORGIANA	COPPERY EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA GEORGIANA	COPPERY EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA KENNEDYI	KENNEDY'S EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA LINEARIS	MOCHA EMERALD	SC
STYLURUS AMNICOLA	RIVERINE CLUBTAIL	E
STYLURUS SCUDDERI	ZEBRA CLUBTAIL	E
STYLURUS SPINICEPS	A CLUBTAIL DRAGONFLY	T

Examples with Public Access:

lower Mill River, Hatfield; lower Sawmill River, Montague.

Threats:

Threats are similar to those for major-river floodplain forests. Non-native plant species can be abundant in disturbed, open areas. The most common non-native plant species are moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*).

Management needs:

All efforts should be made to mechanically remove non-native plant species and to prevent further clearing.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC:

Similar to Acer saccharinum-Ulmus americana/Onoclea sensibilis Forest [CEGL006001].

MA [old name]:

Southern New England floodplain forest [CT2B1A0000].

ME:

Hardwood floodplain forest community.

VT:

May be included within Silver maple-sensitive fern-false nettle riverine floodplain forest.

NH:

May be included within Silver maple/false nettle-wood reed-sedge floodplain forest.

NY:

Floodplain forest.

CT:

Similar to Acer saccharinum/Onoclea sensibilis community [Matteuccia struthiopteris variant].

RI:

Maple-sycamore floodplain forest.

Golet & Larson, 1974:

Deciduous wooded swamp (WS-1).

Other:

Author:

J. Kearsley

Date:

7/21/99